

9/24/98

The Rogers Fibre Mill Site Cleanup: EPA's Building Demolition Plan

**Bar Mills, Maine****August 1998**

Overview

The Rogers Fibre Mill Site is located in a residential neighborhood on Depot Street in Bar Mills, Maine. Approximately 57 homes and an elementary school are located within a quarter-mile of the site.

The 1 to 3 story dilapidated building on the site is over 100 years old and was used by the Rogers Fibre Co. to manufacture fiberboard materials from 1917 to 1980. This company merged with Colonial Board Company (CBC) in 1967 and was known from that point on as CBC's Rogers Fibre Division.

A sluiceway flows beneath a portion of the building that extends over the Saco River. Portions of the mill have collapsed in the past, releasing debris into the river.

During an investigation of the site in September 1997, EPA discovered materials with concentrations of asbestos as high as 95%, and drums and other containers containing elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These findings prompted EPA to initiate a cleanup due to the significant human health and environmental risks posed by the site; especially threats posed to the local drinking water supplies and sensitive river ecosystem.



EPA will demolish and remove the mill building during the month of September.

What has EPA completed thus far in preparation for the building demolition?

Over the course of the last few months, EPA has inspected the mill complex to identify all applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements to address in preparation for the demolition project. For example, with assistance from Central Maine Power (CMP) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), EPA evaluated the mill foundation, which is considered part of the dam, in an attempt to prevent possible damage to the dam during demolition activities.

In addition, EPA obtained a permit from the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC) to proceed with the demolition.

EPA collected a total of 4 water and sediment samples from the Saco River to identify any background contaminants present. These data will be compared with samples taken after the demolition project is completed to ensure that the River's water quality has not been affected by EPA's cleanup.

During the next phase of the cleanup, EPA will continue to:

- remove and dispose of all accessible asbestos-containing materials;
- demolish the mill complex, and reuse, recycle, or otherwise dispose of the debris;
- conduct inventory and remove drums, tanks and other containers;
- coordinate with the parties responsible for the contamination at the mill complex (PRPs), who are technically and financially capable of performing the drum and container removal;
- ensure disposal of all identified hazardous substances and contaminated materials at EPA-approved disposal facilities; and,
- conduct sampling of water and sediments in the Saco River after demolition is complete.

EPA's Demolition Plan

Safety and Security First

EPA's demolition of the mill complex will require the use of heavy machinery, including large cranes and excavators. Because the building sits right next to Depot Street, EPA must take all precautions necessary to ensure the safety of surrounding

residents. For this reason, EPA will place temporary barriers at both ends of the site to block vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Depot Street during the excavation work. EPA is working with the Buxton Police and Fire Departments to coordinate emergency access and establish an alternate route for daily local traffic.

In addition, EPA will install a temporary six-foot-high chain link fence around the perimeter of the site to keep people away from the construction activity. EPA will post warning signs along the fence to inform visitors of the dangerous conditions at the site.

Building materials will be pulled away from the river to minimize the possibility of debris falling into the river.

River Protection

EPA will place hay bales along the river to prevent sediment erosion into the river during demolition activities. EPA will also place submerged netting and floating booms along the entire river's edge bordering the site to capture any fallen debris. Debris will be scooped up by workers and disposed of with the rest of the demolition debris.



A view of CMP's hydroelectric dam from the basement of the mill building. CMP will inspect the foundation of the building to ensure that its removal will not disturb the integrity of the dam.

Building Demolition

The mill complex consists of four connected buildings. All recyclable materials salvaged from the demolished structures, such as wood and steel, will be shipped to appropriate recycling and scrap yard facilities for reuse. Steel beams, plumbing fixtures, sprinkler systems and similar salvageable materials will be shipped to a local scrap yard.

The concrete foundations of each building will be left intact until CMP, owner of the adjoining hydroelectric dam, has inspected the foundations to determine if their removal activity would effect the integrity of the dam. If approved by CMP, EPA will remove the concrete piers,

footings, and other foundation structures and then regrade the area to a physically safe condition.

Smokestack and Water Tower Demolition

Using large cranes, EPA will lower the smokestack and water tower to the ground where EPA workers will cut the structures into sections with acetylene torches. EPA will ship these sections to a scrap yard or recycling facility.



A view of the water tower and smokestack.

EPA continues community involvement activities

In addition to mailing newsletters and other correspondence, EPA will continue to

canvass neighborhoods located near the site to inform residents of cleanup plans and address concerns they may have about the project.

EPA's On-Scene Coordinator, Janis Tsang is available to answer questions or meet with residents at the site trailer, which is located directly across the street from the site next to the Buxton Fire Station. Please stop by!

Stop by the site or call!

U.S. EPA

Janis Tsang, On-Scene Coordinator
(617) 573-5732

Erin Heskett, Community Involvement
(617) 565-3033

1-888-372-7341 EPA's toll free number is:

Just ask the receptionist for either Janis or Erin.

Town of Buxton

Fred Farnham
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